

SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

Summary: The USSR is the source of more than half of India's military equipment and the bulk of its modern weapons, including all the supersonic aircraft, submarines and missile-firing patrol boats, and, together with Eastern European countries, a substantial portion of the medium tanks and armored personnel carriers. Soviet military deliveries on a large scale began after India's border conflict with China in 1962 and accelerated after the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War in response to Indian replacement and modernization needs and a US-UK arms embargo. Czechoslovakia, Poland and Bulgaria also have provided military equipment to India since 1965, mainly for the ground forces.

1. The USSR and Eastern European countries delivered considerable amounts of ground forces equipment--tanks, armored personnel carriers, and artillery--and some SA-2s in recent months under agreements signed since the beginning of the civil war in East Pakistan last March.

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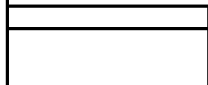
3. In addition, India has produced 150 MIG-21 fighters under Soviet license and received substantial technical assistance in the use of Soviet weapons. The value of Soviet military deliveries to India is estimated at near \$800 million at the prices charged by the USSR, which in many cases are lower than the prices of comparable Western equipment. Technical assistance and supplies for Indian arms plants raise total Soviet military support to over \$1 billion.
4. Background: The Indian armed forces have received about \$1.7 billion worth of military equipment from foreign sources from 1954 to November 1971. (See Table 1) Non-Communist countries have supplied less than 50 percent of the total, most of it prior to the Indo-Pakistani War in September 1965. In the wake of the 1965 hostilities, the US and UK, which had been India's largest sources of military equipment, suspended arms deliveries to the subcontinent, and, although they later were resumed, their magnitude dropped sharply.
5. Growth of the Soviet Role: Since its initial shipment of eight medium transport aircraft in 1961, the USSR has emerged as India's single most important arms supplier and major source of modern weapons. Among the items delivered have been high-performance aircraft, transport aircraft, light and medium tanks, armored personnel

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carriers, field artillery, surface-to-air missiles, submarines, patrol escorts, and guided missile patrol boats. Several East European countries have supplied a large amount of ground force equipment, mainly medium tanks and armored personnel carriers, but Moscow has been the source of the vast majority of the more sophisticated military equipment.

6. The USSR first emerged as a significant source of foreign military equipment to the Indian armed forces in mid-1962. Previously the Soviets had limited military deliveries to transport aircraft and helicopters.

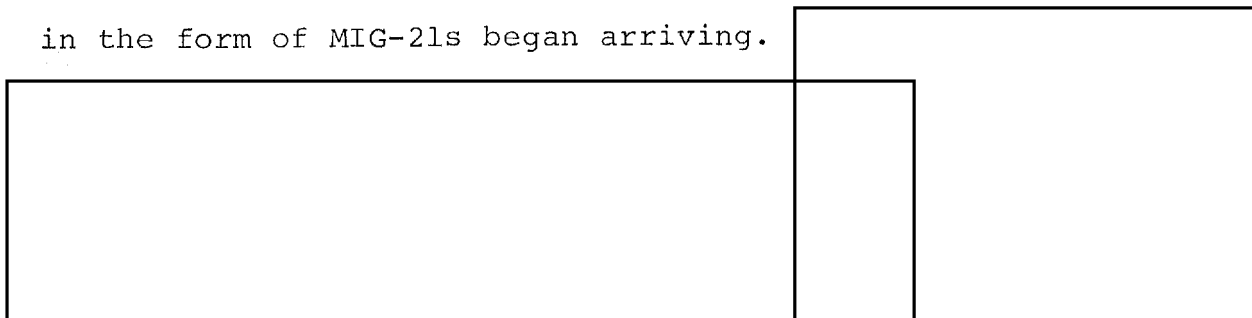
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Moscow continued to provide military equipment to India following Chinese attacks on its northern borders, but it was not until 1963 that combat equipment in the form of MIG-21s began arriving.

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7. Perhaps the most important result of the US-UK embargo on arms deliveries was the major shift of Indian arms procurement to the USSR. Since late-1965, the USSR has agreed to provide India with additional MIG-21 jet

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interceptors as well as the SU-7 fighter-bomber, helicopters, medium tanks, and ammunition.

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India's domestic

military aircraft production capabilities received an additional boost in 1969 when Moscow agreed to provide the license and production assistance for 150 to 170 of its most advanced export version of the MIG-21.

8. Moscow also has provided large quantities of spare parts for the weapons systems it has supplied. In addition to the spare parts that accompany the weapons, India has sought to build its supplies with purchases from the USSR.

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9. In addition to the arms it has supplied India, Moscow also has provided New Delhi with a substantial amount of military technical assistance.

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[REDACTED] Soviet military technicians

have supervised the assembly and maintenance of all sophisticated Soviet equipment shipped to India.

10. East European countries, mainly Czechoslovakia, have provided a lesser though significant amount of military equipment. Prague has supplied New Delhi with Soviet-designed medium tanks and Czech-designed armored personnel carriers, while Bulgaria has provided ammunition.

11. Recent Developments: As tension between India and Pakistan began to mount beginning in March, New Delhi began seeking additional arms. [REDACTED]

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12. Soviet seaborne military deliveries to India in recent months have increased over the comparable 1970 period. There are indications that these

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shipments consisted of tanks, armored personnel carriers and other ground force equipment

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as well as spare parts covered

under earlier agreements.

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13. Role of Soviet Equipment: Military equipment of Soviet or East European origin constitutes the bulk of India's modern weapons inventories. All high-performance aircraft are either of Soviet origin or produced in India under Soviet license, while the remaining combat aircraft are of Western origin or design. More than one-half of New Delhi's medium tanks and nearly a half of its armored personnel carriers come from the USSR or Eastern Europe. Although India produces most of its light artillery, the more modern, longer-range pieces are Soviet. Moreover, India's operational surface-to-air missiles were received mainly from the USSR. Although India's larger ships are of Western origin, all foreign acquisitions since 1965, including submarines, patrol escorts and missile patrol boats have been from the USSR.

TABLE 1  
Estimated Deliveries of Foreign Military Equipment to India  
1954 - November 1971

|                     | Million US \$           |                |                |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                     | <u>Total Deliveries</u> | <u>1954-65</u> | <u>1966-70</u> |
| <u>Total</u>        | <u>1,692.7</u>          | <u>840.4</u>   | <u>852.3</u>   |
| <u>Free World</u>   | <u>788.7</u>            | <u>607.4</u>   | <u>181.3</u>   |
| Australia           | 3.5                     | 3.5            | -              |
| Belgium             | 7.3                     | .7             | 6.6            |
| Canada              | 7.5                     | 7.5            | -              |
| Denmark             | 2.5                     | -              | 2.5            |
| Finland             | 13.0                    | 13.0           | -              |
| France              | 87.5                    | 82.4           | 5.1            |
| Germany             | 16.7                    | 12.6           | 4.1            |
| Italy               | 27.7                    | 27.7           | -              |
| Japan               | 15.2                    | 15.2           | -              |
| Netherlands         | 4.8                     | 4.8            | -              |
| Sweden              | 5.1                     | 4.1            | 1.0            |
| Switzerland         | 5.4                     | 5.4            | -              |
| United Kingdom      | 411.0                   | 292.0          | 119.0          |
| United States       | 161.0                   | 131.0          | 30.0           |
| Yugoslavia          | 20.5                    | 7.5            | 13.0           |
| <u>Communist a/</u> | <u>904.0</u>            | <u>233.0</u>   | <u>671.0</u>   |
| USSR b/             | 795.0                   | 233.0          | 562.0          |
| Czechoslovakia c/   | 80.0                    | -              | 80.0           |
| Bulgaria            | 12.0                    | -              | 12.0           |
| Poland              | 17.0                    | -              | 17.0           |

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